(b) and (c) The PDS is implemented in all areas including the drought-hit areas in the country.

Non clearance of arrears of sugarcane growers in Andhra Pradesh

1980. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many sugar mills in Andhra Pradesh have closed down without clearing the arrears of sugarcane price to the sugarcane growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, mill-wise; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to ensure release of arrears to the growers by such sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) As per information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, no sugar mill has closed down in the State without clearing the arrears of sugarcane price to the sugarcane growers.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Starvation deaths despite overflowing godowns

1981. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Save lives, not grains-overflowing godowns do not square with starvation deaths", appearing in the Indian Express, dated 12th May, 2001; and

(b) if so, Government's views and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken a number of measures to utilize the stocks of foodgrains with it. These include *inter alia*, increase in the